NEWS ANALYSIS NO. 1-0262 FEBRUARY 28, 1976
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FORD WARNS CUBA

ANNCR: PRESIDENT FORD HAS WARNED CUBA IN STRONG TERMS NOT TO TRY TO REPEAT WHAT HE CALLED ITS AGGRESSION IN ANGOLA IN THIS HEMISPHERE. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN COMMENTS.

VOICE: IT WAS THE STRONGEST STATEMENT YET BY PRESIDENT FORD ABOUT WHAT HE TERMED THE CASTRO REGIME'S FLAGRANT AGGRESSION IN ANGOLA. THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS STRUCK A SOMBER NOTE IN A STATEMENT MADE ON AN OTHERWISE HAPPY OCCASION--NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES IN MIAMI FOR SOME TWELVE HUNDRED NEW AMERICANS, MANY OF THEM CUBANS WHO HAD FLED THEIR HOMELAND AND THE OPPRESSION OF THE CASTRO REGIME. THE PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ITSELF, WELCOMING THE NEW CITIZENS OF THIS REPUBLIC, WAS ISSUED AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE PRESIDENT'S CAMPAIGN IN FLORIDA FOR THAT STATE'S PRIMARY VOTES AS HIS PARTY'S CANDIDATE IN THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS. BUT WHAT MISTER FORD SAID ABOUT CUBA WENT FAR BEYOND THAT NARROW INTERNAL POLITICAL CONTEXT.

FOR HIS WARNING TO CUBA AND ITS FRIENDS, IN EFFECT WAS A REAFFIRMATION OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE'S RIO MUTUAL SECURITY PACT.

THE RIO PACT, SIGNED IN NINETEEN FORTY-SEVEN, COMMITS THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS TO COME TO THE DEFENSE OF ANY ONE OF THEM ATTACKED BY ANY OTHER NATION, WHETHER OF THIS HEMISPHERE OR OUTSIDE OF IT. IT WAS THE RIO PACT THAT WAS INVOKED AGAINST CUBA MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS AGO TO IMPOSE DIPLOMATIC AND ECONIIC SANCTIONS ON THE HAVANA REGIME FOR ITS POLICY OF EXPORTING REVOLUTION. ONLY LAST YEAR, AT SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE NATIONS AMENDED THE RIO PACT TO EASE THAT OBSTRACISM OF HAVANA. MANY OF THEM, SINCE THE CUBAN-SOVIET ADVENTURE IN

ANGOLA ARE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THAT STEP. THIS WAS MADE EVIDENT TO WASHINGTON DURING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT TRIP TO SIX LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS.

THAT THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER IS SHARED BY PRESIDENT FORD WAS APPARENT IN HIS STATEMENT WHEN HE SAID:

"THE FIDEL CASTRO REGIME OF CUBA, BY SENDING AN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE OF TWELVE THOUSAND SOLDIERS TO INTERVENE IN A CIVIL WAR IN ANGOLA, IS ACTING AS AN INTERNATIONAL OUTLAW. FIDEL CASTRO," PRESIDENT FORD DECLARED, "HAS COMMITTED A FLAGRANT ACT OF AGGRESSION."

BY THAT ACT, THE PRESIDENT SAID, FIDEL CASTRO HAS VIOLATED NOT ONLY THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, BUT THE RIO PACT. AND IN A SOLEMN WARNING, HE TOLD HAVANA AND ITS FRIENDS IN EFFECT NOT TO TRY TO REPEAT THEIR ACTION IN ANGOLA IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. AS HE PUT IT--"MY ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH FIDEL CASTRO. IT IS A REGIME OF AGGRESSION. AND I SOLEMNLY WARN FIDEL CASTRO AGAINST ANY TEMPTATION TO ARMED INTERVENTION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. LET HIS REGIME," THE PRESIDENT SAID, "OR ANY LIKE-MINDED GOVERNMENT, BE ASSURED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD TAKE THE APPROPRIATE MEASURES."

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